

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A washer wherein antimicrobial metal ions can be added in to
water and attached to a surface of laundry in a predetermined process in a laundry washing
5 session,

wherein a time of the predetermined process is longer when metal ions are added
than when no metal ions are added.

2. The washer according to claim 1,
10 wherein metal ions can be added into water being fed during “rinsing with pouring
water.”

3. (Amended) A washer wherein antimicrobial metal ions can be added in to
water and attached to a surface of laundry in a predetermined process in a laundry washing
15 session,

wherein the predetermined process includes a powerful swirl period and a mild
swirl period or a powerful swirl period and a still period.

4. The washer according to claim 3,
20 wherein a ratio of powerful swirl period and mild swirl period or a ratio of
powerful swirl period and still period is constant, regardless of a volume of water in a
washing tub and/or an amount of laundry.

5. The washer according to claim 3,

wherein a ratio of powerful swirl period and mild swirl period or a ratio of powerful swirl period and still period varies in accordance with a volume of water in a washing tub and/or an amount of laundry.

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6. (Amended) The washer according to claim 3,

wherein the water into which the metal ions have been added is agitated by mild swirl or placed at a standstill after said water is agitated by powerful swirl for a predetermined period.

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7. (Amended) The washer according to claim 6,

wherein the predetermined process is a final rinsing process.

8. (Amended) A washer wherein antimicrobial metal ions can be added in to

15 water in a predetermined process in a laundry washing session,

wherein when uneven spreading of laundry is detected during squeezing rotation of a washing tub after addition of metal ions, a countermeasure to be adapted is different from that when uneven spreading of laundry is detected while no metal ions are added.

20 9. (Amended) The washer according to claim 8,

wherein the different countermeasure is rinsing for correcting uneven spreading of laundry by agitating it in water containing metal ions.

10. (Amended) The washer according to claim 9,

wherein in case where the rinsing for correcting uneven spreading of laundry is executed with fresh water being replenished, an amount of metal ions to be added is less than that added in previous processes.

5 11. (Amended) The washer according to claim 8,
wherein the different countermeasure is rinsing for correcting uneven spreading of laundry by agitating it in rinsing water with pouring water containing no metal ions with indication and/or notification that water being fed contains no metal ions.

10 12. (Amended) The washer according to claim 8,
wherein the different countermeasure is termination of squeezing rotation together with indication and/or notification that uneven spreading of laundry is detected.

13. (Amended) The washer according to claim 8,
15 wherein when detection of unbalance in laundry is not a single occasion, different countermeasures are adapted for each occasion.

14. (Amended) The washer according to claim 8,
wherein a plurality of kinds of countermeasures for unbalance are provided, and
20 kinds and/or order of countermeasures to be adapted are selectable.

15. (Amended) The washer according to claim 13,
wherein a plurality of kinds of countermeasures for unbalance are provided, and

the kinds and/or order of countermeasures to be adapted are selectable.

16. (Added) The washer according to one of claims 1 through 15,
wherein metal ions are generated by using an ion elution unit that elutes metal ions
5 by applying a voltage between electrodes.